

# DEGREES

REAL TALK ABOUT PLANET-SAVING CAREERS



**PRESS KIT**  
Season 4 | 2022



# About the podcast

Degrees is the ultimate podcast for sustainability jobs and planet-saving careers. Part club, part roadmap, part therapy session, Degrees features up-close conversations with people using their climate careers to make meaningful impacts in the world.

Kicking our addiction to fossil fuels is one of the most important job opportunities of our lifetime. Host Yesh Pavlik Slenk gets the inside story from **talks with leaders on the forefront of the transition — sustainability experts, city leaders — even former White House staffers** — about their paths to solving the world's biggest environmental problems.

In 2021, **Degrees ranked in Apple Podcasts' Top 25 Careers**. Season Four launches in September 2022 with a new focus on **jobs of the future** and a new narrative format. One of our ten episodes is a **collaborative partnership with Harvard Business School**. The season is inspired by the record demand among Millennials and Gen Z to use their careers to pioneer the just transition with clean energy jobs.

Following these inspiring conversations will also be a new segment called **#AskYesh**, where Yesh, a veteran sustainability careers expert, will **solve listener dilemmas** around choosing careers, finding the perfect green job, building skills, and overcoming obstacles.



# Degrees and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)



Finding the ways that work

Degrees is presented by Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), backed by more than three million members whose mission is to preserve the natural systems on which all life depends. EDF is all-in on climate — the greatest challenge of our time. EDF provides game-changing solutions for climate change that put people at the center of all we do. Degrees strives to make job seekers' searches for mission-driven jobs as easy as possible. The Degrees Green Jobs Hub is one of the few places where people looking for green jobs can go to find resources all in one place.







## Yesh Pavlik Slenk

Yesh Pavlik Slenk is the senior manager of the global Climate Corps Network at Environmental Defense Fund and host of Degrees: Real talk about planet-saving careers. Yesh manages EDF's Climate Corps network of more than 3,000 sustainability and energy management professionals worldwide.

Yesh trains and mentors Climate Corps fellows in companies and cities to help accelerate clean energy projects and climate goals. Collectively, fellows have helped identify energy savings worth more than \$1.6 billion, the equivalent of over 2.2 million metric tons in carbon emissions.

Yesh blogs frequently about sustainability careers on EDF+Business and LinkedIn. Her writing has been featured in *GreenBiz* and *Ms. Magazine*. Outside of work, Yesh is a dance-party-loving wife, mother of two, and Chicagoan who is deeply pleased by gummy worms, a glass of wine, and nature documentaries.





# About the team

Degrees is produced by [Podcast Allies](#), a story-driven podcast consulting, production, and training company serving nonprofit leaders. A woman-owned agency, Podcast Allies was founded by journalists in 2019. The team has decades of experience in public radio and working with top audio networks, including NPR and Wondery.



## **Elaine Appleton Grant: CEO, Podcast Allies**

Elaine is a lifelong journalist who has reported, produced and led shows for three NPR affiliate stations. She speaks frequently about storytelling, podcasting, and solutions journalism for nonprofits. She once lived in a house built in 1792 in New Hampshire populated by bears, moose, and a whole lot of history.



## **Tina Bassir: Podcast Allies Operations Manager**

Project manager extraordinaire, Tina leads the Degrees marketing and promotion team and optimizes Podcast Allies day-to-day operations. A gardener, vegan and mom of two, Tina shines a ray of hope for the whole team, even as they cover difficult issues like climate change and environmental injustice.



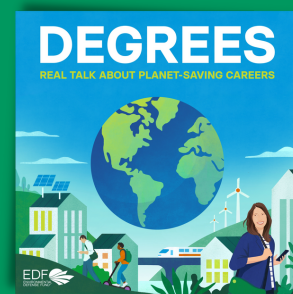
## **Tressa Versteeg: Senior Producer**

Tressa Versteeg is an audio reporter and producer whose work has appeared on PBS American Portrait, NPR, Duolingo and more. She also produces the feminist sports podcast Burn It All Down. When she's not making radio, she is beachcombing the coast of Maine, eating ice cream and camping.



## **Rye Taylor: Audio Engineer**

Rye has crafted podcasts featuring topics as varied as children's stories to crime-scene cleanup. When not in the studio, you can find Rye researching new adventures, storytelling, or getting into mischief with things like alligator wrestling and sailing around the world with his two boys.



**Degrees Cover art** comes to us from award-winning illustrator Bee Johnson. A specialist in editorial illustration, Bee has created art for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, and *National Geographic*. She's also created book covers for HarperCollins and Penguin Random House, among many others. Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, she now lives in Queens with her husband, two daughters and their deeply insecure dog.





# The numbers



52,413

Overall download  
numbers



Geographical reach of

142

Countries



Top  
1.5%

Listennotes.com  
global rank



1,745

Followers on  
Spotify



3 million

EDF members



214k



33k



439k



100k hits (2021-2022)



# Notable guests and interviews

## Start with

- [Jason Swann's Life Turned Upside Down. Now, He's Saving Wild Places](#)
- [Yes, You Can Turn Your Climate Anxiety into Meaningful Action](#)
- [What Drove a Former USA Swim Team Member to Tackle the Diesel Problem](#)
- [Lake Street Dive on Music, Activism and Bravery](#)
- [How to land a sustainability J-O-B!](#)

## Meet some of our guests



**Ryan Panchadsaram**

Advisor to the Chair at Kleiner Perkins, co-author of *Speed & Scale*, and former Deputy Chief Technology Officer of the United States, Season Four.



**BJ Johnson**

Former USA swim team member and cofounder of ClearFlame Engine Technologies, Season Three.



**Chris Castro**

Director of Sustainability and Resilience in the City of Orlando, Season One.



**Kameale C. Terry**

CEO of ChargerHelp!, Season Four.





# Listener reviews

## "Smart people, important work"

I've been following EDF for years and supporting them, so when I learned about their podcast I had to check it out. The interviewer and her guests are all incredibly inspiring and talented folks working to make the world a better place for all humans and creatures. Sustainability isn't just someone's job - but everyone's. Their content is really empowering so you feel like you have a lot of take always you can work on no matter what your contribution level is. I often relisten to an episode and visit episode notes and resources because there really is a gold mine of information in each episode.

**Plants are the Future**

## "Well-Researched and palatable"

This podcast uses tons of resources for their information and talks about important climate topics with climate solutions at the individual, community, national, and global levels.

**JDDOSJW**

## "Well researched and beautifully produced!"

This podcast series offers just the right dose of inspiration, human backstory, and hope for the future when it comes to sustainability. Super high production values, too! Can't wait for next week's episode.

**Fixin Vixens**

## "Exactly what I needed!"

I just wanted to share with you the impact your work & voice has been having on me. Like many people, I was changed by the pandemic and it led me to the decision to quit my job and pursue a drastic career pivot from HR in Tech into environmentalism and your podcast is exactly what I needed!

**Audrey Allison**



# Where to listen & how to contact

## Listen on:



Apple Podcasts



Spotify®



Google Podcasts



Pocket Casts



**For media or sponsorship  
inquiries, ad buys,  
interviews, or collaborations,  
please contact:**

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